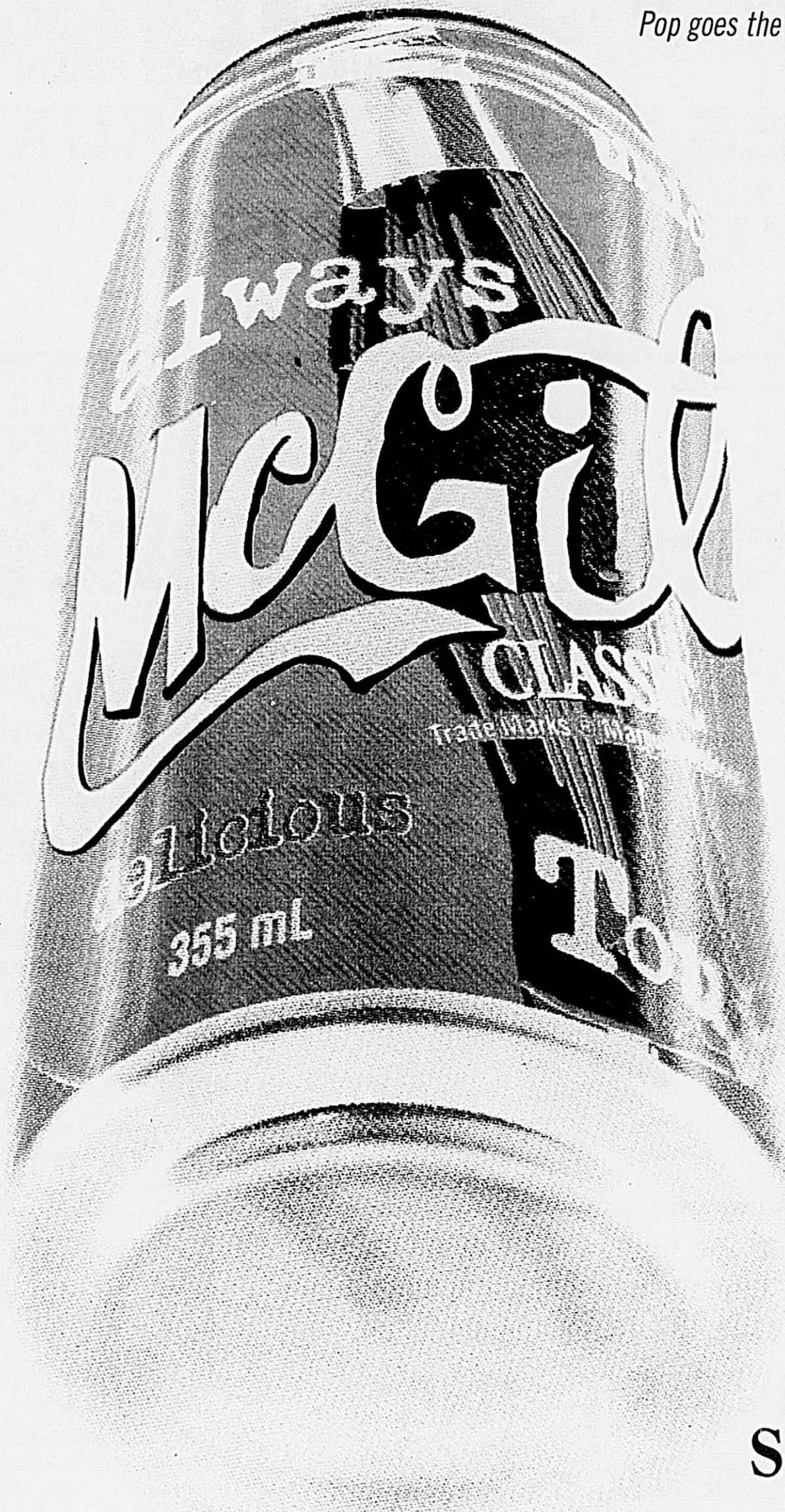


THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 39 January 17, 2000
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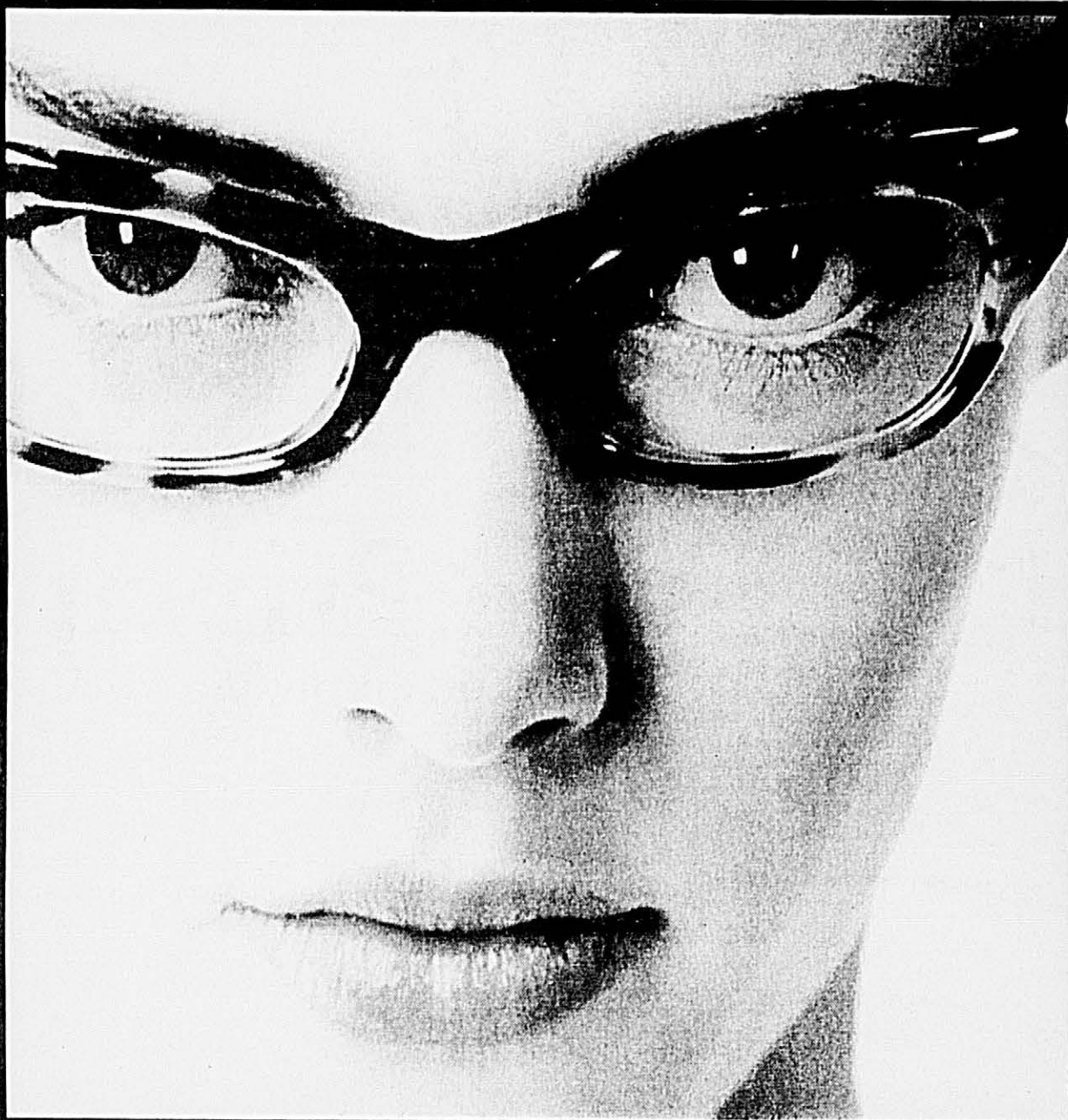
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National Education Lobby Gets Ready for the Budget

CASA outlines national education campaign

BY JON BRICKER

With this year's federal budget expected in a matter of weeks, student leaders are stepping up efforts to ensure students get a cut of the billions in surplus dollars that Ottawa is anticipating over the next few years.

During a visit to McGill on Thursday, Jason Aebig, president of the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations, spoke at a SSMU meeting where he outlined CASA's Education Builds a Nation campaign. Aebig met both friendly and frosty responses from councilors as he laid out CASA's plans to lobby the federal government for funding in time for next month's budget.

"We've pushed as hard as we can from start to finish to make sure it's understood that \$4-billion is needed," said Aebig of the Alliance's push for increased education funding to restore federal government cuts. "Given the surplus that the federal government now enjoys, it was our view that it was the right time for this national campaign."

Aebig highlighted several other key points in the campaign, including restored federal transfer payments, faculty renewal, and campus infrastructure. The lobby, if successful, would see a GST credit placed on textbooks, interest relief initiatives on student loans, and the elimination of differential tuition, an objective promoted by SSMU at CASA's national conference last October.

So far, Aebig says he is optimistic that student voices will be heard. Last year, Alliance leaders met with government MPs, Cabinet ministers, Opposition leaders, and bank representatives, efforts which he hopes will pay off.

"We've already had a deal of success with respect to the Millennium [Fund] and tax credits on student loans," he said.

Scott Reid, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Finance, said CASA's lobbying efforts always weigh heavily on budget planners.

"CASA has been pretty effective in making the case for better accessibility and funding," he said. "You'd not take them seriously at your peril."

But Reid said the finance ministry isn't making any promises yet for the upcoming budget. "You'll have to wait and see," he said. He then added that the Liberal government has already done a lot for education. "We have taken steps in past budgets... The 1997 budget did address those issues quite directly."

Aebig says he recognizes that new education spending is competing with a host of other initiatives for the predicted \$95 billion in surpluses anticipated over the next few years.

"The Liberal caucus is split right down the middle between tax cutters and spenders. The question is, where are they going to put it?" he said.

That question explains why CASA is stepping up its campaign in the coming weeks. "Leading up to the federal budget,

it's hard core press time," said Aebig. "There's still time to change this budget."

But while his presentation Thursday was well received by many councilors, others chastised the group's mandate and SSMU's stake in the national lobby.

"When will McGill students have the right to express their vote about what they really think?" asked Law Councilor François Tanguay-Renaud.



Student signs CASA campaign poster

Tanguay-Renaud and Engineering Councilor Phil Gohier went on to question the democratic nature of SSMU's membership in CASA, and the Alliance's sensitivity to Quebec nationalism issues. In addition, the two reps were concerned with how the student movement has been hurt by poor ties between CASA and the Canadian Federation of Students, the country's largest student group.

Tanguay-Renaud pointed to parts of CASA's Education Builds a Nation mandate that he says don't represent McGill's 20 per cent francophone population.

"They're so clearly federalist," he later told The Daily. "I hear 'building a nation, abolishing frontiers.' Nation equals Canada.... This sounds as an offensive statement to many people here."

He went on to criticize CASA's failure to take a stance on Quebec issues like the recent controversy surrounding the federal Clarity Bill on a Quebec referendum.

But Aebig said that falls outside his mandate. "Our focus is on post-secondary education only."

Gohier hit on another hot button when he questioned how activist CASA's stance really is compared to that of Access 2000, a CFS campaign that will feature a national student day of action next month. Student leaders have decried seeming dissension in the ranks between the two student fronts since CASA's inception five years ago.

Aebig, however, says leaders from both organizations have come a long way to bettering relations.

"[The difference] is more about strategy than it is about ideology," said Aebig. "It'd be really terrific if we could cooperate."

But CFS officials have consistently distanced themselves from CASA.

Nevertheless, the CASA head called his

Alliance a leader on the student front. "There hasn't been a group in Ottawa that has pushed harder for our kind of proposals at the post-secondary education level," he said. "If the CFS or any other organization had been doing a very effective job leading up to 1995 [when CASA began], I wouldn't be here today."

Aebig also agreed with Tanguay-Renaud however, that SSMU might do well to put their membership to a campus-wide referendum which never accompanied their signing on with CASA in 1995.

"I think a referendum is a great idea, if McGill wants to have one," Aebig said.

But SSMU VP Community and Government Affairs Wojtek Baraniak, who oversees the external portfolio, said he didn't think a referendum was necessary. "If students indicate they'd like to see something like that happen then it's the job of a student association to do so," he said, "but I don't see that happening."

Baraniak also called some of Tanguay-Renaud's behaviour during the presentation inappropriate. "It irritated me, his interruptions, his laughs throughout Jason's speech

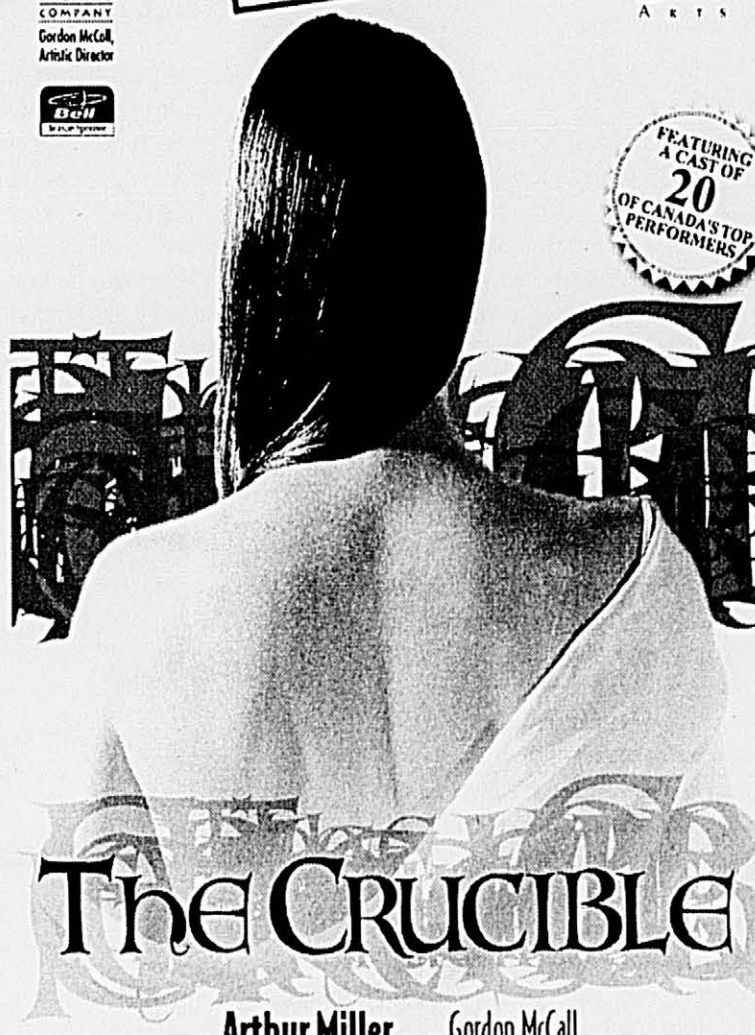
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SSMU Falters on Coke Deal

Frustrated VP McPhee: "No more CBA questions"

BY ZACH DUBINSKY

Tempers flared at last Thursday's SSMU Council meeting, as several councilors accused Council Executive of trying to push through a cold beverage exclusivity contract without the support or knowledge of Council.

A story written last November in The McGill News said the university and Coca-Cola were "on the verge of signing" an exclusive cold beverage agreement. And a report on Thursday morning's CBC Radio news stated that "McGill signed an exclusive deal with Coke...last year." Council has not yet approved the deal, and angered councilors challenged executives to explain whether or not these reports were accurate.

"No document has ever left the Students' Society's office or McGill University offices saying that we're close to signing or that we've signed that document," said SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee. "These are rumours. None of them are founded."

"We're still a lot of work away from something even being close to a prepared document," McPhee explained, adding that the Cold Beverage Agreement still "requires a lot of work."

"I will not be proceeding with signing any document without this council

knowing about it," McPhee affirmed. At the same time, he didn't feel that SSMU Council should see the current draft of the contract. "I would say that presenting the draft document that I now have in my possession at the next council meeting, should I be granted permission [by Coke and McGill], would be a waste of each of

"I'm not sure how it works. I don't know yet," responded McPhee. "I can't even give you a definitive answer right now whether or not we as a council will see that document."

But François Tanguay-Renaud, VP External of the Law Student's Association, said that as it stands now, SSMU cannot

Renaud said, they would have to see it first.

In response, VP McPhee reminded Council that he signed two contracts over the summer. "One was a food service contract that was approved by council through a proxy vote, the second was a bag and service contract - and neither one came in its full form," McPhee said. He acknowledged, though, that he has no right to sign the CBA.

"I understand that my right to sign that agreement was taken away May 30," he said, referring to the date when a mandate from Council expired.

Engineering Councilor Phil Gohier, who has concerns about how the CBA will bind and affect students and their faculty associations, spoke out for the Engineering Undergraduate Society. Since McPhee is one of the only students to see the draft agreement, Gohier asked for an account of how the terms of the contract would affect the EUS.

"I would like to ask on behalf of our faculty association for a report on all the impact the CBA will have on our operations," said Gohier. "We'd like a report on how the CBA will affect the normal operations of the EUS, such as advertising."

McPhee agreed to provide a general report for all faculty associations. "No more CBA questions," McPhee finally exclaimed with frustration.

The beverage exclusivity agreement between McGill and Coke has been under negotiations for a year and a half. If signed, Coke will have a monopoly on cold beverage sales on campus for an 11-year period. In return, Coke will pay McGill an estimated \$10-million, 40 per cent of which would go to student associations. The negotiations have been



Cold beverage exclusivity deal: Coke is it.

our time."

Clubs and Services Representative Clare Jennings expressed her concern with this approach. She asked whether students would have the option of changing clauses in the contract, and not just approving or disapproving them.

enter into any CBA contract, either as a party or an intervenor, without all councilors seeing the contract. According to SSMU's Constitution, Council "shall be empowered to make all decisions and take all actions on behalf of the Society." For councilors to make a decision on the CBA, Tanguay-



SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee

highly controversial; students opposed to the deal say that a corporate presence on campus threatens university autonomy, while those in favour of the agreement emphasize the necessity of the money to be received.

A CBC spokesperson could not provide

Laval, UQAM Students Stop Campus Pop Deals

Will McGill students mobilize against the Coke deal?

BY CRISTINA CAMPISI

Student opposition to exclusive beverage deals at Université du Québec à Montréal and Université Laval has led both universities to cancel their cola contracts, leading some students to hope that the same thing could happen here at McGill.

Student protests at UQAM began last November, when the university signed a 10-year, \$5.9-million exclusivity deal with Coke. Sixty-six students were arrested and UQAM's teacher's union and employees unions came out strongly against the deal.

Despite the lucrative benefits the deal would have brought to the university, it was cancelled because the administration decided it would divide the UQAM community.

Similarly, in a recent referendum at Université Laval, an overwhelming majority of students rejected their university's plan to give either Pepsi Cola or Coca-Cola exclusive rights to pop sales on their campus. Following the vote, the Laval administration decided to suspend the plan.

Daniel Vigneault, a protest organizer at UQAM, said there are many reasons for overwhelming student opposition to the Coke deal. "Overconsumption is a major problem and students inevitably buy more when pop machines are readily available," said Vigneault. "Course material could also be at risk as universities become further dependent on the private sector."

As for the loss of much-needed funds, he says "The government should be responsible for funding education." Vigneault and other students believe the cancelled deal is an example of students' successful ability to mobilize.

These recent events have McGill students wondering if it is possible to hold a referendum on McGill's own cola exclusivity deal.

"If there are problems with the deal, and if democratic voices are in opposition to it, they must be addressed at any time," argued Mike Leitold of Corpwatch at QPIRG. "The student groups which have been a part of the consultation process are those groups which stand to gain financially, including faculty associations. The

larger student population has not been a part of the process," he said.

But SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee argues that a referendum on the deal is neither realistic nor feasible. "The best time for a referendum would have been a year and a half ago when the process began," McPhee said. At the same time, McPhee admitted that if the majority of students were in opposition to the agreement, it would be difficult for the administration to pursue the deal, as was demonstrated at UQAM. He also indicated that students have been involved in the process through the faculty associations.

A major concern voiced by the Law Students' Association and Science Students' Association is that SSMU lacks full party status in the agreement. Without full party status, SSMU cannot properly protect the rights of its members. Since the terms of the deal are currently kept secret, its consequences for student rights are not known. Given the bookstore deal - which prohibits faculty associations from holding their own book sales - it is possible that the cold

beverage agreement could inhibit student groups from fundraising through bake sales and sponsorships.

Increased funds and sponsorship remain the incentive behind the Coke deal, explained McPhee. "Once government funding increases we won't have to look for alternatives, but for now, the money generated from the agreement is a positive alternative that can be used to fund bursaries, sports teams and so on," he said. Even though SSMU does not have full party status in the agreement and therefore can't guarantee students' rights, he doesn't believe the contract will have any adverse effects on academics or student life.

Physics Professor Shaun Lovejoy believes that financial incentives are not enough to warrant such a deal that involves such adverse effects. "Commercialization has been visible for some time, from the advertising in the university bathrooms, to the growing corporate presence" on campuses, said Lovejoy. "But it also shows itself at the research level and the hiring of faculty level where commercial interests hold enormous and

growing influence."

Lovejoy also observed that the federal government's White Paper, released last May, proposed that universities be required to include the marketing of goods and services as a "core" mission in their charters. This would, in effect, force professors who are prejudiced against the private sector to commercialize their discoveries, according to Lovejoy.

"Even without this bigger picture the justification for the Coke deal is pretty sorry and is quite revealing about the working of the higher administration," said Lovejoy. "On the one hand we are not told the exact value of the deal, which will probably be between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year, [and] is peanuts compared to McGill's overall budget and deficit. While Principal Shapiro justified this by saying he would do about anything to get more money, this money is coming out of students' pockets via increased beverage consumption."

Currently, the McGill Association of University Teachers, the organization that represents McGill's academic staff, has not taken a position on the Coke deal.

news-briefs



FOOD COURT RENOVATIONS OVER BUDGET

Large-scale renovations to the Shatner building's cafeteria will cost nearly \$200,000 more than expected, says Kevin McPhee, vice-president operations for the Students' Society of McGill University. Students will foot at least \$80,000 of the extra bill.

The revelation was made at last Thursday's meeting of the Students' Society Council.

When the original deal with food services provider M.T.Y. Tiki Ming was signed last summer, said McPhee, "the idea of the contract was that it's not going to cost more than half a million dollars." But McPhee explained that the original cost estimates for the new food court didn't foresee a \$356,000 charge for upgrades to ventilation, plumbing and electricity. M.T.Y. had promised to contribute \$500,000 to the renovations.

According to McPhee, council had four options to meet the extra costs. The first two consisted of choosing between one of two plans for a smaller-scale renovation to the existing cafeteria, while the third choice was to extend its existing contract with Tiki Ming.

McPhee rejected these first three options saying, "This really isn't a good idea, and I don't think I have to explain why."

The fourth option, which McPhee advocated and which Council nearly unanimously approved, was to spend extra money on the project.

Council eventually voted to authorize an amount of no more than \$80,000 to meet the extra costs.

McPhee said the Students' Society could afford the extra money because of projected revenue increases from the new food court. He hoped SSMU could attract more students to the new facilities.

-Zach Dubinsky

STUDENTS CAN OPT OUT OF MCGILL STUDENT FUND

Students wanting to opt out of the McGill Student Fund will have to do so during the week of January 17 to 21 at room 1203 of the new Brown Student Services building. Students who opt out will get \$38 credited to their McGill accounts.

Last term's opt-out period was marred by Students' Society administrative errors. SSMU had to change the dates for the opt out twice.

The McGill Student Fund distributes money to McGill's libraries and pays for renovations to the Shatner building, which is owned by the university. The MSF was approved in a controversial referendum last year.

Because of administration concerns about students who only study at McGill for half a term, there have to be two MSF opt-out periods every year.

-ZD

COUNCILLORS KEEP UP PRESSURE TO JUMP STUDENT FRONTS

The ongoing debate about the possibility of McGill joining la Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec, the province's largest student front, was again brought up at Thursday's SSMU meeting. During the informal committee of the whole session, Clubs and Services Representative Claire Jennings suggested that SSMU could make a concerted effort to become a member of the provincial organization.

VP Community and Government Affairs Wojtek Baraniak stated that the issue, which has been brought up on a few other occasions by other councillors, is currently being looked into. He also pointed out that McGill will be represented at "Point Développement", a strategic planning meeting for la FEUQ in the upcoming weeks.

He also expressed his belief that if the issue of joining the organization were to go to a referendum at McGill, there would be a slim chance of students voting in favour. This response, he felt, would come in light of the popular sentiment among the stu-

dent body that la FEUQ still has sovereignist leanings.

-Samira Rabmani

U OF OTTAWA PROF. UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR CONTROVERSIAL EXAM QUESTION

OTTAWA (CUP) - A University of Ottawa microbiology professor is under investigation after he asked students how they would develop a bacterium to kill Quebec separatists, but not federalists.

Robert Charlebois included the bonus question in his third-year microbiology exam in December.

Following a media uproar, Charlebois sent each student a letter of apology saying he never meant to offend.

The University has issued a strongly worded statement characterizing the question as containing "bio-terrorism," and calling it "deplorable" and "clearly inappropriate." It apologized to anyone who might have been offended by the question.

It was also pointed out in the statement that the University's relationship with its professors is governed by a collective agreement and that an investigation was under-

way according to the processes set out in that agreement.

According to the statement, Charlebois - who did not return phone calls - has been asked by Dean of Science Christian Detellier to provide an explanation of his actions.

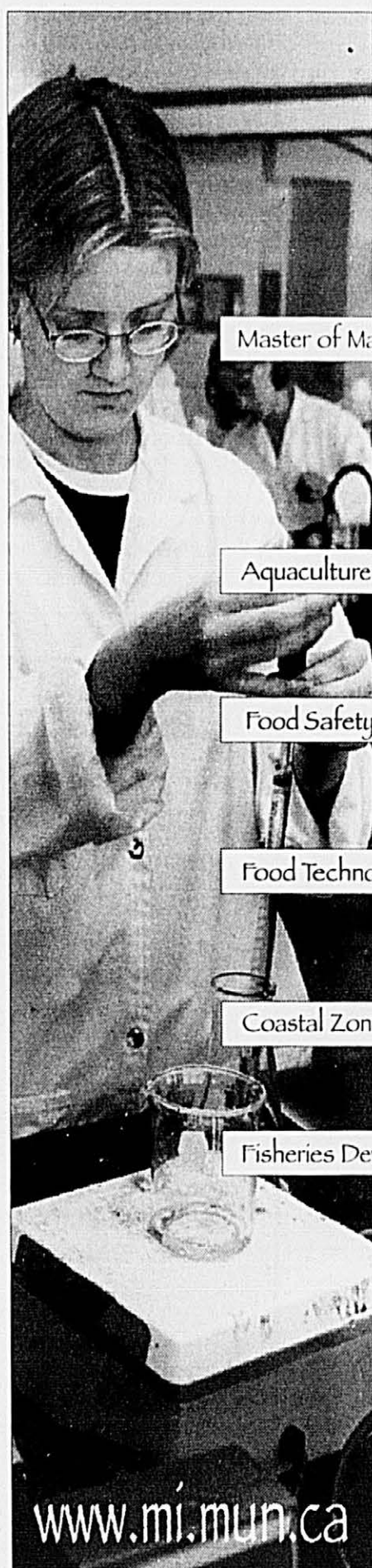
Both Hélène Carty, Marketing and Communications director, and Lyse Huot, Marketing and Communications officer,

could not be contacted by press time. Carty and Huot were the ones who released the official University statement.

The controversial question read: "It is the year 2000 and you are employed by the government. Using your knowledge of microbiology and transmission of infections, find a bacterium to eliminate Quebecois separatists, but not federalists."

-Kate Hearfield

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Ya Gotta Spin It To Win It

University administrators cheered last week's news that Montreal had narrowly more students per capita than any other city in North America. And why shouldn't they? In the words of Vice-Principal (Academic) Luc Vinet, "It's a great thing to promote." While this may be true, universities need to be on top of this message. This study grew from the *Tradition and Innovation* discussion paper, a document prepared chiefly by Vinet to show the provincial government that increased post-secondary education funding was necessary and would produce tangible results. Upon realizing that politicians liked hearing that we were second to Boston in students per capita, further

research was done. The results are better than expected, but before we go running to the province boasting about this, we need to examine why this was such a point of interest in the first place.

When Finance Minister Bernard Landry watched our administration's slide show, he was faced with complicated issues with no easy solution. Despite its faults, the document made it clear that the money taken out of education has been extremely detrimental to McGill. Infrastructure, libraries, faculty renewal and many other facets of university life have been scarred, and massive cash infusions are needed to return to even early 1990's levels. So one can imagine how Landry's face must have

lit up when he saw that Montreal was among the top cities for students. Instant rhetoric with no price tag -- pure political gold. Now the news is even better. Landry can respond to pleas for funding with a claim that his government must be doing something right. After all, look how popular Montreal is!

As for our Students' Society's never-ending fight to end differential tuition, this is undeniably a blow. Higher fees don't scare away out-of-province students, politicians can say. In fact, Quebec's fees are a bargain in North America. Which is partially true, but definitely not a point we should concede. The SSMU would be best to put differential tuition aside in this case.

Do we have to lose a game we began? Not necessarily. If we spin this well, we could score points with the general public, thus making education funding politically feasible. To do so, the message must be that we won't be able to promote this for long if our universities and colleges are not bolstered. We must also make it easy for the government to do this by noting that this result was the work of years of investment that must not be squandered. But unless the university administration, together with the other six major institutions in the city, jump on this before the major media moves on to something else, we will have simply handed the PQ government a bloodless political victory.

Daily DIY: Get Away With Murder

Alright, everyone together now, especially those old people in the back: "We Love Loopholes." Yes, that's right ladies and gentlemen, you too can end the lives of one or maybe even hundreds, maybe even thousands, of innocent people while living a painless and guilt-free existence. More importantly than karma or guilt or any of that intangible crap, you will be able to pursue these aims while not in the least being held responsible for your actions in a court of law.

Now you're saying, "I've always wanted to kill someone, but I couldn't survive a second in prison." That is the beauty of this fabulous loophole that lets you perform heinous acts without the inconveniences of 23 hour solitary confinement or being someone's bitch. "Alright, already, just tell me how I can get away with murder," you're saying. Alright you wild and crazy sociopaths,

you can pursue one of two options.

Option A, popularly known as the Abraham option, simply involves murdering someone while you are still considered a juvenile. Take that cute little tyke Nathaniel Abraham from Michigan, for instance. In October of 1997, when he was eleven years old, Abraham murdered an eighteen-year-old and became one of the United States' youngest defendants. He was convicted of second-degree murder, an adult charge, and instantly became a symbol for lost and dispirited youth everywhere. As his sentence was revealed last Thursday, little Nathaniel learned that he would be held in a juvenile detention centre for the next eight years, until he is 21. Then he will be released regardless of whether or not he is fit to walk the streets. See how easy that was? Just get off to an early start in your homicidal career and you too can get away with murder.

Then comes option B, popularly known as the Pinochet option. This is the real doozy, folks! You can kill or torture one, maybe two, how about over 3,000 people and not be held accountable. What's the catch? Just make sure that you don't get caught until you are depressingly old and you, my friend, will be able to spend your retirement on some beautiful tropical shores enjoying margaritas and wearing as many leis as your wrinkled old neck can carry. Just look at everyone's favourite Chilean former dictator (drumroll please), Augusto Pinochet.

According to the civilian government that succeeded him in Chile, Pinochet is directly responsible for the killing or disappearance of at least 3,197 people, including Spanish citizens. So what did British officials say when the possibility of Pinochet's extradition was brought up? They said that Pinochet was so old (how old was he?) that he is unfit to stand trial. You see this whole

extradition has been a massive source of stress for the 84-year-old general, who is known to be suffering from a heart condition and diabetes. HEART CONDITION AND DIABETES!! We must make sure that the geriatric general gets some peace and quiet so that he can he sufficiently enjoy his twilight years.

You see how easy that was? If you are thirteen years of age or younger, start killing now, because, at that age, you can kill now and not be held responsible in the future. If it is too late for you to pursue the Abraham option, simply wait it out a bit longer, kill to your heart's content, contract emphysema or heart disease or really bad hangnails or whatever and badda bing, badda boom, not fit to stand trial.

So next time you feel like suppressing your homicidal tendencies, just remember the ethos that all of us as students, workers, and even people have embraced over the years. Timing is indeed everything.

20 years ago: McGill's Senate approved a new marking scheme that introduced minus and plus grades into the calculation of grade point averages. Previously, The Daily reported, grade points were assigned solely for the grades of A, B, C, D, and F, which earned 4, 3, 2, 1, and 0 points respectively. Echoing a present-day debate, The Daily reported that "a proposal that the new system also include an A+ was defeated on the grounds that it would upset the relation between letter grades and grade point averages." *Kramer Vs. Kramer*, a film starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep, opened in theatres and was reviewed by The Daily.

of British Columbia were preparing a brief to present to Prime Minister John Diefenbaker detailing the financial problems of university students. The Daily wrote that, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (now Statistics Canada), the cost of one year at university averaged \$1212, while the average student could save only \$443 from summer and part-time employment.

60 years ago: Several Canadian universities agreed to a plan for student exchanges. The Daily reported. The exchanges would allow third-year undergraduates to spend the year studying at another university, provided that they agreed to return to their home university to complete their fourth year. The University of New Brunswick's Students' Representative Council decided to discontinue its membership in the Canadian Student Assembly and recognize only the National Federation of Canadian University Students. It became the third university to withdraw from the CSA that year.

40 years ago: The Daily reported that "several prominent students" had proposed the creation of a student Court of Justice that would hear appeals on Students' Executive Committee affairs. The court would serve as a check on SEC power, particularly since up that point, the SEC reserved the power to interpret its own constitution. The Daily also reported that students at the University

Daily staff elections

will be held on Thursday, January 27th. The positions that will be opened are:

- **coordinating culture editor**
- **culture editor (2)**
- **online editor**

Must be Daily staff to run. All students who have contributed 6 stories/pictures and/or 3 features and/or 6 three-hour units of production work in the past year qualify as staff. Please see an editor for details. Good luck and Godspeed.

THE MCGILL DAILY



Run Bookstore For Students, Not Profit

BY JAMES YAP

The Common Good, by Noam Chomsky. Required for McGill course number 107-304B on Chomsky. Price at The McGill Bookstore: \$18.00. Price at the Chapters.ca website: \$15.03. The difference: \$2.97 (20 per cent).

Heat and Thermodynamics, by Richard Dittman and Mark W. Zemansky. Required for McGill course number 198-253B on Thermophysics. Price at The McGill Bookstore: \$130.95. Price at the Chapters.ca website: \$119.95. The difference: \$11.00 (9 per cent).

Turning Points: Decisions Shaping the Evolution of the International Political Economy, by Mark R. Brawley. Required for course number 160-243B on International Political Economy. Price at The McGill Bookstore: \$36.95. Price at the Chapters.ca website: \$28.01. The difference: \$8.94 (24 per cent).

The list goes on; such price discrepancies are not at all difficult to find. What is important to realize is that, while textbook prices are significantly higher at our McGill Bookstore than at the Chapters website, The McGill Bookstore is actually managed by Chapters (in fact, savings are even

higher if one purchases a \$15 Chapter One membership for a 10 per cent discount on all purchases — not applicable at the Chapters-managed McGill Bookstore, of course).

Furthermore, The McGill Bookstore buys used textbooks at just 10%-50% of their listed price and sells them at 75%. This is a far greater profit margin than a university bookstore should make off of such transactions; a small, privately-run bookstore in the McGill Ghetto buys and sells used textbooks at much more competitive rates.

Although I have a personal boycott on Chapters for other reasons, in this case I shall give them the benefit of the doubt. Let us assume that much of the price differences on new textbooks arise from the Chapters website having a lower operating budget, rather than an attempt to exploit a captive market. Nevertheless, the *raison d'être* of a university bookstore is to mitigate the often-crippling cost of course textbooks for students. Because a university bookstore is not out to make a profit off of students, prices there should be lower than

comment



comment

anywhere else. Its operating budget may be higher than a website's, but it is not a for-profit corporation like Chapters (although Chapters did record some huge quarterly losses in 1999).

Thus, it is inexcusable for there to exist a place where prices for textbooks are consistently lower than at The McGill Bookstore.

Granted, profits from The McGill Bookstore are divided 30-70 by the university and the SSMU (and we all know how efficiently the SSMU spends its money!). And let us once again give Chapters the benefit of the doubt by assuming that the cost we pay for their bookstore-managing services is offset by the wonderful, professional cost-efficiency of those same services.

Nevertheless, the profits taken in by the university and the SSMU from the bookstore represent a levy which should not normally exist and which many students can ill afford. It is like an MSF that you can't opt out of. Additionally, the fact that anybody can walk into the

bookstore and pay the same prices for textbooks that students do, if they so wish, demonstrates an utter lack of commitment to easing the financial burden of buying textbooks. It is the equivalent of allowing non-McGill students free access to our libraries or gymnasium.

A better alternative would be to eliminate the profits and pass on the difference directly to students by lowering textbook prices. Only McGill students, by showing their ID card, would be able to take advantage of these discounts. The McGill Bookstore could also continue to operate as a normal bookstore on the upper levels, but the profits from this too should be passed on directly to students through lower textbook prices.

In the meantime, although the exorbitant textbook prices at The McGill Bookstore are a disgrace, I ask students to consider resisting the urge to save costs by buying them elsewhere. This would take profits away from the university and the SSMU (which at least benefits students a little) and place them solely in the hands of a large, privately-owned corporation.

Dear Bernie

For some cheap fun and a short break from the Bell Canada saga, I offer here a few pointers for McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro.

"The University will explore every reasonable revenue-generating possibility that it has," Bernie said some time last term.

Here's a few "reasonable" revenue-generating suggestions for Bernie:

- Sell his name. Since Shapiro is personally guiding McGill's campaign to forge private partnerships, he should take the lead and sell his title for some serious sponsorship money. Rumour has it that Royal Bank might be willing to pay the big bucks to have Shapiro change his title to "The Royal Bank Principal of McGill University."

- Sell other names around campus. So far, the rumoured Kraft Dinner Theatre has a nice ring to it. Why don't we add the Sprint Track and Field Team, the Bell Mobility Tower with the Rogers Candel Time Clock, and the Louise Arboretum (provided the Supreme Court justice and former International War Crimes prosecutor can cough up the dough)?

MERELY Musing



ZACHSKY

"Our principal likes to engage in intellectual exercises," said Vice-Principal Academic Luc Vinet about a comment by Shapiro published in *Time* magazine. Shapiro wrote that he wanted to look into further privatization at McGill. While he's waiting for Steve Jobs to call back about changing the university's name to iMacGill, here's a few exercises to keep the neurons limber:

- Think up definitions to the words "proteomics," "genomics," and "bioinformatics." These words appeared in McGill's Tradition and Innovation proposal to the Quebec government. Shapiro himself admitted that they were just buzzwords, designed to make McGill's aspirations sound cutting-edge. Which begs the question — what are they buzzwords for? And what, if anything, do they really mean? (the spell check doesn't recognize any of them). Bernie, help us out here.

- Devise new words for tuition, freeze, regulation, and out-of-province fee. Formulate a plan to convince McGill's accounting department to use the new words on students' fee statements. Formulate a second plan to outwit the education ministry when they wonder why McGill students are paying hundreds of dollars more for their education when tuition is supposed to be frozen.

I think these should be enough to keep Bernie occupied for a while. Happy hunting, Royal Bank Principal!

I Wanna Be A Princess

Now that some time has passed I feel that I can make an announcement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a winner. It was like the Wizard of Oz. But scary. Camels and snakes and belly dancers. OH MY!

Unless someone else works very hard, spends a lot of money, or really, really goes out of their way (possibly involving Elvis impersonators), Céline Dion's re-wedding has won the award for cheesiest pseudo-media event of the year.

The spectacle of Céline done up like some sort of brain damaged white trash person's version of a Egyptian princess/harem girl was a great deal of fun. And while I rather enjoyed the similar looks of stunned disbelief and bemusement on the faces of both René and the Camel, the real joy of this was to be found in the TV coverage that ensued once the peacocks had been packed away.

Though the dancing girls with chande-



liers on their heads come a very close second.

That said, the best part of all of this wasn't the snake charmers, but watching Newsworld's Mark Kelly, Entertainment Tonight's Mary Hart and Access Hollywood's Pat O'Brien trying, not very well, to not make fun of the re-wedding.

No one wanted to say "Look at this horrendous, awful display of wealth and bad taste." Because in the end, they are afraid of two things: Firstly, Céline Dion has a

whole lot of fans, pissing them off would be a poorish idea. Second, because of the aforementioned fans and the amount of money she makes, she is news.

So the thing that journalists near the top of the barrel have to do is protect their access to the stars.

Down here, under the barrel, I can say things like this.

When you give a lot of money to someone with little taste and class, the person becomes a rich person with little taste and class.

I can also say, and given that I am not a Bishop or a Pope (or Catholic, for that matter), nor am I an expert on these matters, that someone should have a wee talk with the priest who performed the ceremony. Perhaps the talk should have something to do with the necessity of his finding a new job.

Also, within my bailiwick (I, too, once went to university) is to make the point that being carried into your wedding on sedan chairs is just wrong on so many levels.



McGill student observes the hand-over of Macau, spends New Year's in Canton

BY SEAN CARRIE

Since the heady days of Medici rule in Florence and the infancy of the Forbidden City, the Portuguese have clung to a slim peninsula and two islands at the mouth of China's Pearl River.

Macau was Europe's gateway to the riches of China for nearly 300 years before being supplanted by the larger concession across the river mouth in Hong Kong.

Over four centuries of Portuguese control in Macau came to an end on December 20. At midnight, the colony became, like Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

On December 18, when I arrived late in the evening on a boat from Hong Kong, a slew of dignitaries was settling into Macau. The diverse and multicultural nature of the visitors - Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, Western and Southern African, Malay, Indian, Timorese, South American - all bore witness to the import that the tiny colony once had, and to its new and fleeting significance as the last outpost of a once sprawling sea-faring empire.

I have the tremendous fortune to live in Hong Kong, at least when I'm not at school. This affords me the opportunity to travel quite a bit around Asia and, this winter break, I took advantage of this and headed to

Macau for its handover to China. For the New Year, I escaped Hong Kong's millennium insanity and broke north for Guangzhou.

In Macau I met my family, who had arrived earlier and passed immigration. From the Macau ferry terminal, over which the city's monolithic, neon-spangled casinos tower, we drove to Coloane Island, the least-

shopfronts abutting the Chapel of St. Francis Xavier.

We spent the day walking through the city. Living in Hong Kong affords me the opportunity to hit Macau whenever the notion strikes, but I always forget what an intriguing place it is. For the past century and a half, the colony of 400,000 has been something of a backwater. Legalized gambling has become its primary source of revenue.

This has had its benefits, however: while most traces of Hong Kong's past were wiped out in the path of progress, Macau's diminished importance and relative poverty necessitated the preservation of its older structures. Centuries-old Portuguese and Chinese homes, churches, forts, and temples still grace the city's winding, narrow streets. The façade of the ruined 17th-century Sao Paulo cathedral stands today as the emblem of the colony, and the city sports a central plaza paved with colourful tile. Macau is an incomparable blend of China and Iberia.

THE HAND-OVER OF MACAU

In the hours leading up to the official hand-over, tens of thousands of Macanese and visitors began filling the streets. The official, invitation-only ceremonies, which took place in a temporary building erected near the waterfront, began in earnest with the presentation of an enormous cultural show composed of dragon

dances, Fado singing, Cantonese opera, and similar performances which reflected the colony's cultural roots.

Dignitaries such as Jiang Zemin, Portuguese president Jorge Sampaio, Chinese premier Zhu Rongji, Hong Kong chief executive Tung Chee-hwa and East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao then graced the presence of hundreds of other guests at an enormous banquet. We huddled in the unseasonable cold among hordes of Macanese.

Nearing midnight, as thousands of ordinary Macanese watched on television screens placed in the Leal Senado Square and in other locations throughout the city, from their homes to cafes, the president of Portugal and the outgoing governor of Macau spoke. President Sampaio reminded the Chinese government of the promises of freedom and democracy which they made to the people of Macau in the 1987 Lusophone Declaration.

At midnight, the square came alive as the Portuguese flag was lowered and was graciously accepted by Sampaio while the five stars of the People's Republic of China rose over Macau.

The ecstatic president Jiang waxed poetic about "the refreshing moon-lit night" and "the mirror-like water," invoked the ghost of Deng Xiaoping and his "one country two systems" model, and, notoriously, used the occasion to urge Taiwan to reconsider its "two states" model. Incoming chief executive Edmund Ho echoed Jiang's statements and assured the people of the new Special Administrative Region that their futures were secure and bright.

On the morning of December 20, thou-

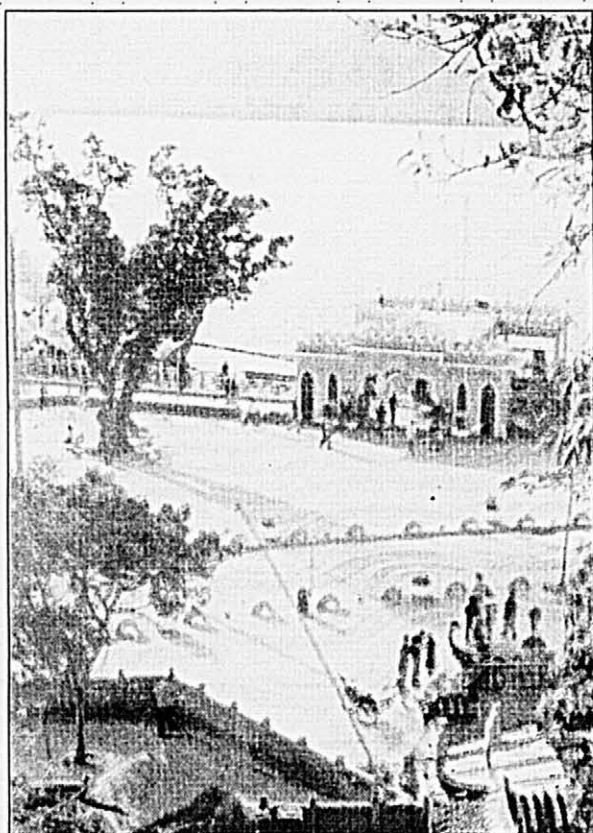
sands lined the streets at the border with the Chinese Mainland to welcome the garrison of People's Liberation Army troops to their new home.

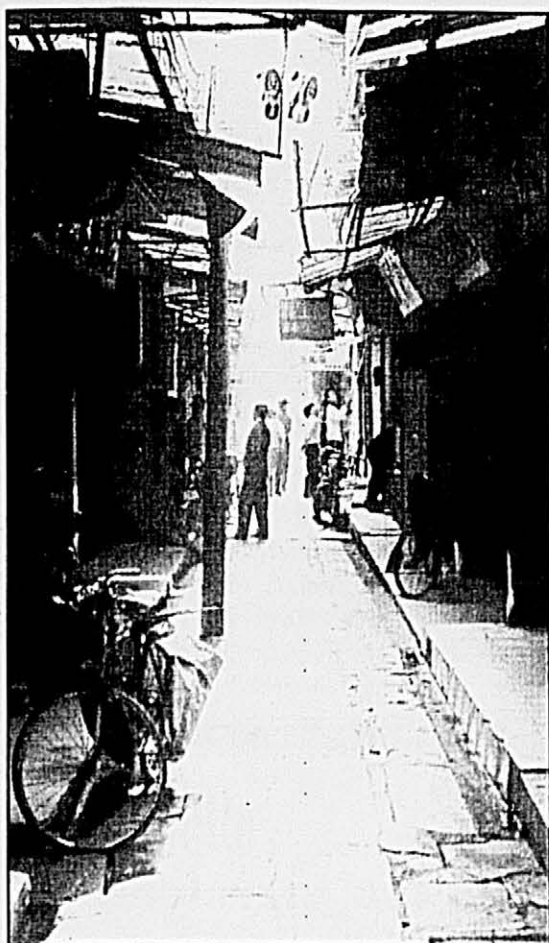
Both Portugal and China envisage Macau's future function to be as a conduit for Chinese-Latin relations and cultural exchanges. Sampaio asserted that the SAR would "continue in its centuries-old vocation as an intermediary at the crossroads of peoples, civilizations, and interests and so strengthen its own identity." Both nations trumpet the "one country, two systems" model, but as has been demonstrated in Hong Kong, the central government has no qualms about stepping over the line which they themselves have drawn. Propagandist posters and flags lining streets throughout the city remind one that Macau is now under the thumb of the Chinese oligarchy, a government which will not hesitate to break the rules if it sees fit. The future may not be dim, but it is not brighter than before.

GUANGZHOU FOR NEW YEAR'S

After a pleasant Christmas week at home in Hong Kong, I headed to Guangzhou (Canton, for those of you puzzling over old maps) early on the morning of December 31. I'd been planning for months on going to the mainland for the New Year, as I, cynical animal that I am, wasn't going to have any part in the over-hyped millennium celebrations. In China, there was the odd sign paying service to the year 2000, but most people are much too busy and much too poor to care.

Upon arrival, I hopped in a handy-cab to the train station, north of downtown.





Facing left: busy streets of Guangzhou; Facing bottom: view of Macau sea; Left: narrow streets in the markets of Macau; Right: man brings cat to Macau market; Bottom: garden in Macau.

of vocabulary I might have known. I was finally left to savour my *chí* without having to strain to catch words.

I caught another cab from the orchid garden to the Qingping market, in a part of the city I hadn't yet seen. The market is massive, composed of dozens of streets, each sporting a different kind of product. One street had medicinal items, such as dried geckos and mushrooms, another had aquarium fish, another "antique" trinkets. The coup de grâce?

The local meat market (no witty metaphor here, this was one big butcher shop). The wares to be had were live or ready-skinned, hacked up rabbit, goat, cow, pig, poultry, dog, cat, snake, songbird, scorpion, fish, horse, rat, and palm civet (a sort of half-cat, half-ferret thing - endangered). I didn't see any monkeys, tigers, or dragons, but toss them in to the mix and you can compile a Chinese zodiac with species to spare.

After going north a bit to Xiajiu Lu to get myself a bubble tea - a Hong Kong-inspired addiction - I walked south through the market to the new ring road and crossed over it and a sewage-encrusted offshoot of the Pearl (Xi) River onto Sha Mian Island, which long ago was the foreign concession in Canton. The old European-style mansions and customs houses still sit quietly among enormous fig and casuarina trees.

Only a few streets are open to vehicles, so the island is nice and peaceful.

I checked into the Sha Mian youth hostel (it was a pretty nice place, but I think I was the only one there), and then set out again. I muddled around the area north of Sha Mian some more, which was, on either side of the market, a maze of streets lined with all manner of shops, including tens of those selling tubing and tubes of indeterminate use - these are ubiquitous in Guangzhou for reasons entirely unknown.

I eventually found my way to Yide Lu, yet another big market street, which specializes around this time of year in vending Chinese New Year's decorations (February 5th marks the passage into the Year of the Dragon). Streets leading off of Yide included those that sell exclusively candy and plastic action-figures. I returned to Sha Mian from Yide with a few New Year's decorations and an enormous calendar featuring the ugly mugs of the PRC's various leaders. How tacky.

After dropping the stuff off at the hotel, I walked the length of Sha Mian. Most of the buildings have been taken over by private companies or government departments, or have been sectioned off into apartments. Sadly, one is only able to see them only from the outside. From the far eastern end of the island, I crossed a bridge over the Pearl into Honan, a suburb on the south bank. Finding this area decidedly unattractive, I walked east along the river to the next bridge and hopped back over to GZ proper.

After taking a big detour around a huge sewer pipe break, which had murky water flowing rapidly into the front doors of a number of apartment buildings, I ended up back on Xiajin Lu, where I walked among the evening strollers before heading back to Sha Mian.

I walked around the island more until, at 11 pm, I headed to a local pub, where I had intended to do nothing more than have a Tsingtao and read until the stroke of midnight. However, I was accosted by a bunch of Chinese students, my age, was incorporated into their group, and rang in the new year with a bunch of complete strangers, all of them supremely nice people. I went home at 4 am after promising to meet them for lunch at 1 pm that day. Definitely a brilliantly low-key celebration, and I didn't hear the word 'millennium' once.

GRACIOUS EATING

I actually woke up at 10 am, and headed north to Qingping Market again, this time with camera in hand. I worked my way further north towards a temple called Hualian Si, but was unable to find it. I stumbled instead into a carless area of small homes and shops selling antiques, scrolls, porcelain, furniture, and the like. I wandered for an hour through the area, chatting with store owners at various times about things which caught my eye.

I walked back from this area to Sha Mian, where I met four of my New Year's acquaintances. We caught a cab at the ring road to the eastern end of Xiajin Lu, where we

crammed into a tiny canteen to eat a single dish, slices of tender beef and strips of vegetable wrapped in a transparent noodle and covered in oyster sauce.

We then walked down to another place where we had bowls of double-skin milk, which is sort of like sweet, thin yogourt. It's prepared by heating milk and then letting it cool, probably more times than the name suggests.

We then tucked into bowls of noodles with radish and slices of beef heart and liver. Let no one call me ungracious: I ate my portion, even though only hours before I had seen the same items displayed en masse, dripping with blood, at Qingping Market.

It was now about 3 pm, and we walked back along Xiajin Lu to Renmin Nan Lu, where we said goodbye and I grabbed a cab to the Garden Hotel.



Newest Health Scare Agitates Audience

Genetically engineered food products raise concerns

BY ANDREW GOLDSTEIN

A leading Canadian environmentalist is accusing Ottawa of not protecting consumers from unsafe food.

In a talk at Dawson College last week, Holly Gressel, a long time researcher and co-producer of the CBC's *The Nature of Things*, spoke out against the commercial use of untested genetically modified seeds to grow food.

Current legislation, said Gressel, does not force food producers to ensure that their products are safe to eat.

According to the environmentalist, the lack of regulation allows the commercialization of genetically engineered foods without any consideration of its negative effects.

"Consumers are the ones who are used as the guinea pigs," said Gressel.

The genetic engineering process in question is called horizontal gene transferring (HGT). Unlike the natural process where a male and female organism produce offspring - called vertical gene transferring because the genes are moved downwards through new generations - HGT

involves geneticists intervening, mixing and matching genes until they produce an altered organism.

Canada is one of five countries pushing for more lenient regulations in the food industry, said Gressel.

At present, more than 170 countries oppose giving the genetic engineering industry more control.

Canada, Uruguay, Chile, Australia and Argentina - countries whose economies rely heavily on the exportation of primary goods - stand in their way, accused Gressel. In addition, said Gressel, the industry

does not have a strong protocol that "would make regulation of the industry mandatory and thereby let us know what we are feeding our children."

During the question and answer period that followed, there were suggestions that companies who endorse genetically engineered foods positively contribute to society by modifying seeds that enhance crop outputs.

These ideas were quickly discarded. "Genetic engineering issues encapsulate everything that threatens the natural world and human health," said Gressel. "If we

don't gain control over this industry, we will seriously lose control over what is going to happen to our future on this planet."

Gressel implored the audience to write to their local MPs and pressure them to stop allowing Canada to allow this industry to act without any responsibility.

"Most Canadians are blissfully unaware of what is happening," said Gressel. "Very few Canadians realize that we are the villains and that the rest of the world looks at us as the scumbags who are preventing them from protecting themselves."

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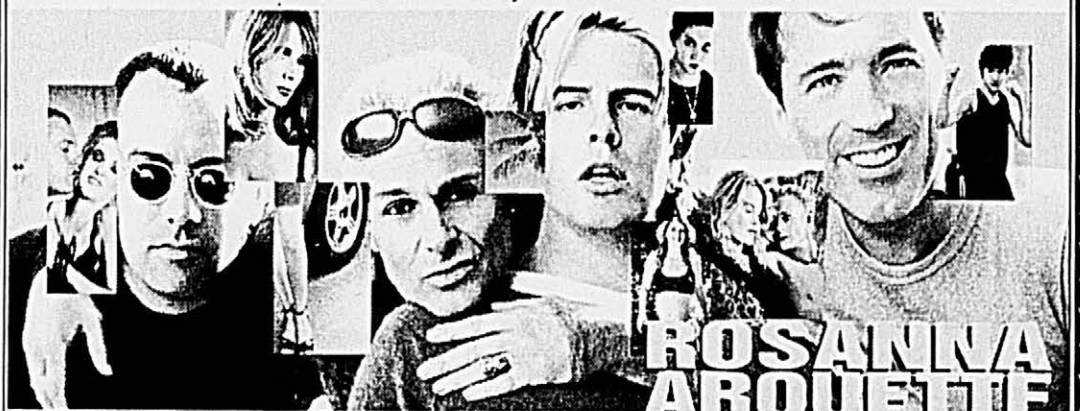
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The McGill Daily



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THE MCGILL DAILY

Residence Fees May Jump by 10%

Increase will fund BMH repairs and DVD players

BY BEN ERRETT

Fees for McGill residences will probably increase by about 10 per cent next year, according to Residences Services Manager Kin Mow.

The increase is expected to fund the renovations of the cafeteria at Bishop Mountain Hall, as well as general repairs throughout the five residences.

Some of the funds may also be used to purchase projection televisions and DVD

players and make it up-to-date for students.

"We have nine different projects in mind that we want to discuss with students. There are a lot of small ones. For example, we are going to get a projection TV for each building, and also a DVD and a theatre sound system. Also, we will redo the carpets and tiles which we don't [currently] have the means to do. Also, we may put more computers in the computer labs. All the increase would go back to the students."

Royal Victoria College president Mona

ings."

According to Mow, residence costs normally rise every year with the rate of inflation. However, Mow pegged the rate at around 5 per cent, while Canada's actual inflation rate has not been above 3 per cent since the early nineties.

"We're looking at a range from 8 to 10 per cent. Normally we just use the inflation rate, plus whatever projects we need to do," Mow said of this year's increase.

Student leaders in residence regretted the increase, but agreed that it was inevitable.

"We can't really do anything about it — it's going to happen," said Shair of RVC. "The people this year are leaving, so they don't really feel anything. It's the people next year that won't have a choice."

Douglas Hall President Amin Allieina said that while many of the students currently in residence will not be returning, most are concerned about the rate hike.

"Some people have the attitude [that it doesn't affect them], but not everyone. A lot of people want, when money gets put in, to see something put out. They want to see what their going to have with that increase."

Allieina believes that the renovations are necessary, but categorizes the proposed television purchases as unwise.



McConnell residents may face a rent increase that could pay for new TVs.

Brie O'Keese, a UO science student in Gardner Hall agrees that the renovations are long overdue, but questions why they are only being done now.

"The buildings are falling apart. The renovations should have happened a long time ago," O'Keese said. "It's crazy that they're inflating our rent to accommodate them when they could have done [the renovations] at an earlier point."

"Residence is already an unbelievable rip-off for the quality that we get. They should have been saving up for this for a long time now."

Another student in the same residence was much more enthusiastic about the proposed television purchases.

"Projection TVs? Are you kidding me? That's awesome, man. I have this perspective 'cause I don't pay for it. My parents pay for it, so I don't really hear much about the cost. If we get TVs, that's cool," said UO science student Dan Thorne.

Current fees for McGill residences range from \$5,404 for a single room at McConnell, Molson, and Gardner halls to \$6,780 for a single room at Royal Victoria College.

“The people this year are leaving, so they don't really feel anything. It's the people next year that won't have a choice.”

players, although this point is disputed by some members of the University Residences Council.

"Bishop Mountain Hall was built in the 60s, and a lot of it is getting old," said Mow. "We want to completely redo the whole

Shair confirmed that the additional moneys would be spent on repairs, but denied that a DVD player would be among the purchases.

"No, [this] is definitely not true," Shair said. "It will go to little things like carpets being renewed, new TVs and some into sav-

What Makes an Artist?

Eleanor Wachtel on the nature of genius

BY DAVID PODGORSKI

Of all the types of books available at your local bookstore, one of the most popular — and curious — is the biography.

New biographies seem to appear every week, featuring the lives of everyone from elder statesmen to movie stars. The last-ing popularity of the biography is perhaps the result of a desire to hear more about the private lives of public people in an effort to know what it is that makes them great.

This belief is even more prevalent when it comes to artists. As the commercial and critical success of the film *Shakespeare in Love* has shown, audiences are enamoured with the idea that great art must be inspired by a great life.

Eleanor Wachtel finds this idea fascinating. As the host of the CBC Radio show *Writers & Company*, she is constantly in search of the source of the writer's gift. Lecturing at the RVC Centenary Lecture Series last Thursday, she delighted her audience with a fascinating exploration of this subject.

Wachtel quickly learned that simply equating a writer's life with his work is a

mistake. As the book editor for *The McGill Daily* in the 60s, she had the opportunity to interview Margaret Atwood, who was then in the early stages of her literary career. When Wachtel unconsciously drew a parallel between Atwood and a character in one of her poems, Atwood was mortified.

"A writer is not a tube of toothpaste," the author scolded. "You don't just squeeze out whatever is inside and put it on the page."

Wachtel acknowledges that this was a harsh lesson to learn, particularly for a journalist who makes it her goal to uncover the person behind the writer.

"If asked what I'm after in my interviews, I would say, I'm after the intersection between the life and the work," said Wachtel of the difficulty this involves. "By this I don't mean the autobiographical source of the fiction...but trying to catch a glimpse of the passion — what fuels the art."

One tragic example of this was her interview with Joseph Brodsky, the exiled Russian novelist. During his life Brodsky had suffered a

failed marriage and had not been allowed to return to the Soviet Union, even to see his parents before they died. He had met his only son after the two had been estranged

for over 20 years, and all hopes of a parental-filial bond between the two had been dashed.

"Brodsky was a solitary individual,"

Wachtel remarked, "and he surprised me by insisting that in life you could be happy or free, and he had chosen freedom."

Wachtel later found some happy irony in the situation, learning that although Brodsky's life had undoubtedly been one of loneliness and solitude, he was in fact married to one of his students.

Wachtel also says she finds that the writer's passion is somewhat fueled by an outsider's status. Far from being the ardent romantic that popular imagination expects them to be, Wachtel finds that many of her guests are, in fact, rather solitary figures.

In an interview with the Irish author Claire Boylan, Wachtel found a striking attitude toward love that emerges in Boylan's fiction.

"My views must be partly influenced by my mother,"

Boylan opined. "[She is] 78 years old and [she] recently said to me, 'All my life I never really understood men and I never really liked them. And now at last I do understand them. And now I hate them.'"

Wachtel believes that this outsider's status is common among all writers. It amounts to an ability to function as a distant observer which gives them the perspective they demand of themselves. It does not necessarily stem from loneliness, Wachtel argues, but is rather something that all writers prize.

It is the result of two contrasting personas: one public, which is brought to light through biography, the other private, where the artist resides.

Eleanor Wachtel believes the life of a writer is a result of this tension between the artist and the person. She believes that the value in uncovering a writer's life is not to gain a complete understanding of her work, but to discover the underlying foundation.

"I can't predict the flavour" of a writer's life, says Wachtel of her attempts, "yet I can't imagine what my life would be like without such sustenance."



Eleanor Wachtel on her work on *Writers and Company*

Internet Killed the Video Star

Time Warner and AOL Merge. Will Culture Survive?

BY DAN HERSHFIELD

The Time Warner and AOL merger scares me. It has since I first heard about it, but only now have I finally figured out why.

Initially, I assumed it was just my usual paranoia about the impending arrival of Big Brother, but while that is always a concern, my fear of this particular mega-merger was more profound. It stems from the realization that what really worries me is the idea of coupling the way we use the internet with our consumption of other media.

Both companies are trumpeting the idea of a new era of online household entertainment. They expound the benefits of allowing consumers access to music, television, film and literature all at the same terminal.

In theory, it should be a perfect picture of convenience and customer satisfaction. No more waiting for your favourite shows, driving to the video store, or watching the boring crap they slip into the time slots between good shows, knowing that it's hardly worth doing something else (like reading) during a half-hour wait.

The flip side, though, is that instant gratification tends to rot the brain. Television, the medium which most closely approximates the "point-and-click" entertainment now being developed, is already one of our most potent drugs, and with less reason to walk away, it's going to get worse. You know how movie popcorn is so salty that it's hard to stop eating until it's gone? Well, downloadable television will be the equivalent of lacing the popcorn with crack.

The question we need to ask ourselves is

this: if people can see anything they want at any time, will they be willing to try anything new, and if they do, will they be patient?

Somehow, I doubt it. Just look at what the remote control has done to television watching. Imagine the challenge a new program faces trying to break into the regular lineup if they only get a second of our attention. If, instead of being bound to choose from what's on at a given time, we can watch anything we want on the Web, will strange and wonderful shows which are an acquired taste—such as *The Kids in the Hall*—survive? Will shows make it through those pilots in the first seasons to flourish into something watchable?

It's possible. After all, they've survived the VCR. But there's still reason to fear.

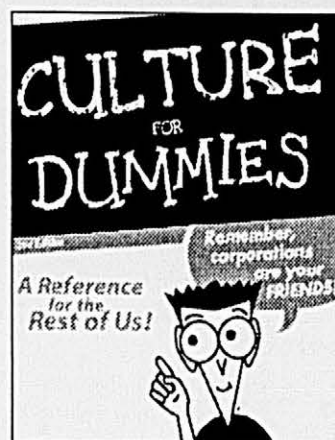
Without being puritanical, I think society's experience with the internet has shown that when people can obtain whatever they want, they want porn—and lots of it. Even porn's most hard-core advocates (and I've known a few in my day) would have to admit that by the time you've cleared puberty, the ability of porn to enlighten becomes somewhat limited.

But this is really not intended as a rant against porn (my hypocrisy does know some bounds), but a demonstration of how thought tends to be fairly low on the list of things people want to provoke in themselves. Knowing what the competition is, entertainment producers are going to aim low in terms of complexity and high in terms of publicity.

With the introduction of the VCR, Hollywood dealt us the "event movie," big-budget blowouts that can only be appreciated on the big screen and that everyone will be talking about, and so forth. This led

to the point we're at now, where crap like *Titanic* and *The Phantom Menace* can be considered successes.

Of course, there is also an upside to the publicity machine: another way to get



noticed is to push the envelope, as has been seen with shows like *Oz*, *Sex and the City*, and *South Park*.

But let's face it, it's a lot easier to conclusively say your film is the most expensive than to say it's the smartest. Therefore, as entertainment becomes more and more wired, and the niche markets for new and dynamic works shrink, don't expect the invisible hand of the market to pass you the remote control.

Lastly—and most worrisome for those forms of culture which lose something on a screen, such as art, literature, and theatre—is the fact that consumerism and entertainment moguls are increasingly telling us that ignorance is the rule, not the exception. I'm

not suggesting that I yearn to return to some golden age where people drank tea with their extended pinkies and clucked their tongues and used words like "rapsallion." Instead, I've spent far more time developing a theory about how the Spice Girls are really just an updated version of the Facts of Life gang than listening to opera. Long story short, I'm not overly cultured (in the high culture sense). However, I find it a really disturbing trend that not only are we increasingly made to accept our relative ignorance, but it seems we're being told that we're not really missing anything either.

Take the *For Dummies* series of books. The clear implication of their format is that expertise in a given subject is overvalued and that things can be appreciated on a highly generalized level. But does reading a paragraph of biography riddled with scandal give you an accurate description of an artist?

Advocates of these books argue that some information is better than none and that they allow people to explore interests which otherwise may be too intimidating. At the same time, these books are both a product of and a contributing factor to our 'taste-test' culture, where we may benefit by being able to explore a wider range of topics but where we suffer from a short attention span which allows us to bail out of a subject when the next craze presents itself.

When you reach the end of *Opera for Dummies*, you always have the option of pursuing the subject further, but it's a big

world and it's all at your fingertips....Besides, wouldn't it take forever to learn the names of every opera? What else is on? And if you don't believe me that cultural knowledge is no longer considered an asset, just look at the dumbed-down game shows taking over television. True, there have always been game shows where the contestants frustrate the hell out of everyone; I have childhood memories of yelling at the TV, "If you think everyone else overbid on the stupid vacuum cleaner, bid a dollar! It's the closest bid without going over, you moron!"

But I also know that the trivia game shows made sure the questions were challenging. On the game shows we see now, not only are most of the questions ridiculously easy, the difficult ones are of the "Damn, who the hell would know that?" variety rather than the "Damn, maybe reading a book would be a good idea" kind. But, hey, why learn when it's only going to cut into your relaxation-TV time anyway?

Not only do I believe that there will always be at least some market for quality entertainment and art, but the further society degrades, the better the entertainment that is ripping it to shreds becomes. *American Beauty* and *Fight Club* in particular gave me some confidence. However, the onus will be on us and I hope we meet the challenge of raising the cultural bar. Personally, I'm going to make some changes. Starting today, I pledge to read at least one good novel or play a week. You know, unless there's something on.

Feasts of Fury

LA MERVEILLE DU VIET NAM
4526 ST-DENIS (CORNER OF MONT ROYAL)
TEL: (514) 844-9884
DINNER FOR TWO (TAXES AND TIP INCLUDED, BUT NO BOOZE): UNDER \$30

By JENNIFER VO

There are two types of restaurants in this world: those where the waiters all gather together and sing as they clap and parade through the room and those where they don't. La Merveille du Viet Nam is the first type of restaurant.

Although the outside of the restaurant has flashy neon lights and glowing lanterns, the decor inside is relatively tame with black chairs, green table cloths, several Asian paintings on the walls, a few out-of-place disco balls hanging from the ceiling, and a tank of lethargic goldfish.

We ordered shrimp chips to start. I also had the imperial roll, while my friend had a small bowl of wonton soup. Our main course was a beef and pineapple dish and the Kung Pao Chicken.

From the touch screen that the waitress punched our order on, to the website which displays pictures of the restaurant and the dine-in and delivery menus, there were lots of flashy lights.

All the technology must make it very efficient because the service was incredibly quick. Almost immediately after ordering, our big basket of shrimp chips appeared at our table. Round, bright white, and crispy with a mild shrimp flavour, we were on our third chip when the imperial roll and wonton soup arrived.

The large imperial roll was conveniently cut into four pieces and was served on a bed of crisp iceberg lettuce and shredded carrots, with some mild fish sauce for dipping. The roll was filled with mainly pork and carrots, and although deep fried, it was not overly greasy.

My friend was also pleased with his order, the won-

ton soup. The soup had five medium-sized chewy wontons, which were generously stuffed with pork and carrots. The pineapple beef and Kung Pao Chicken dishes, both of which were very large, also came with a bowl of steamed fragrant rice.

Although the beef in the pineapple beef dish was very tender and plentiful, it was not particularly flavourful. On the other hand, the pineapple was sweet, juicy, and obviously from a can. The white mushrooms and red and green peppers that were also in the dish were fresh and crispy.



The Kung Pao Chicken was completely lacking the expected pow. Instead of being spicy, it was unusually sweet, with very strong Hoisin notes. Again, the meat was plentiful, if not particularly flavourful. This dish also contained diced carrots, red and green peppers, onions and peanuts.

For dessert, my companion and I shared the fried apple, which was half an apple, peeled, deep-fried in batter, served with a sticky caramel sauce and sprinkled with sesame seeds. It could easily have been sold at Tim Horton's. The fact that they serve Nabob coffee is heavily promoted, with a banner near the kitchen and mugs with the company logo. This explains the bargain price of 75 cents.

If you're looking for a resto where you and a friend can fill up on appetizers, a main course each, and dessert for under \$30, La Merveille du Viet Nam is the place to go.

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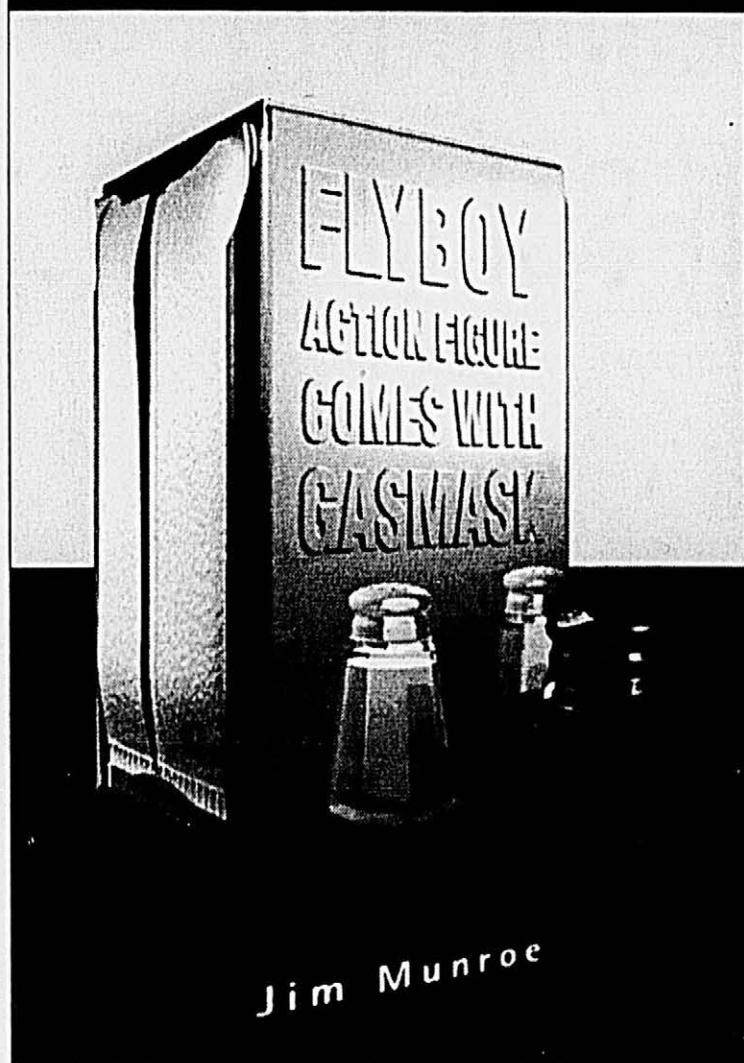
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Canada

The Bookshelf



Flyboy Reads Best When Not Fighting Crime

FLYBOY ACTION FIGURE COMES WITH GAS MASK
By JIM MUNROE
HARPER FLAMINGO CANADA, 248 PAGES, \$20

REVIEWED BY BEN ERRETT

The term "graphic novel" is often used to confer respectability upon full-length comic books that aren't comic books at all.

Technically, Art Spiegelman's *Maus* should be classified as literature, but they get nervous putting books with pictures in them on the shelves at Chapters. Hence we have the graphic novel classification: the kids know it's not *Archie*, and adults needn't be embarrassed.

Flyboy Action Figure comes with Gas Mask isn't a graphic novel *per se*, but it ought to be on the same shelves. Just as *Maus* subverts the comic panel-and-speech bubble form, Munroe takes the post-Generation X urban artist/slacker novel and turns it into a comic book in text form.

Ryan Slint is a University of Toronto student who drinks too much coffee, has a crush on the waitress at the local diner, and is a big fan of Sailor Moon. Did I mention he can also turn into a housefly? His crush, Cassandra, has the ability to make things disappear. As Flyboy and Ms. Place, they wreak havoc on those who they believe deserve it. This includes Big Tobacco, the Toronto Sun and the police. A clumsy subplot involves Ryan's mother's battle with cancer, providing the fuel for his righteous battle.

Flyboy's strong points fall in its minutiae. The banter between Ryan and his roommates is witty but realistic, something more like reality than a sitcom. The plot, aside from the novelty of the fly transformations, rapidly spins out of control. The

first three-quarters of the novel intersperse the superduo's realization of their powers with their ordinary lives. This showcases Munroe's strengths. For instance, take Flyboy's aborted attempts to let others in on his secret in Grade 2 show-and-tell:

"Some one wanted to see how long they could survive underwater. I thought that sounded great, and looked down at my book — *How To Turn Into A Fly* — and had a happy moment thinking about how useful this knowledge would be, almost as life-enriching as learning how to read.

"Then Ms. Blanchard's high-strung voice cut through the air and slashed open the cocoon in my stomach, releasing the butterfly. What would happen if Kelly drow — got hurt while doing that? Several kids shouted out drowned, dead, killed, and although this didn't answer her question she went on. 'Right, class B so no experiments on yourself, or other people...or pets.'"

Munroe could have let these low-key oddball vignettes form his novel. But instead, he tries to pack another novel's worth of plot into the last quarter of the book. The superheroes start a fight against pot laws, a jailbreak occurs, and there is a random and clichéd sequence where they confront a child abuser. The book becomes convoluted, and much of the charm is lost.

Jim Munroe knows how to write, and his verbal dexterity avoids cutesiness. His abilities are poorly displayed in this plot. A postmodern superhero story could work, but it doesn't here. Hopefully he will follow up his debut novel with a vehicle more suited to his strengths. In the meantime, *Flyboy Action Figure Comes With Gas Mask* is like the dollar-store chips the protagonist munches on: tasty enough while you're eating them, but of negligible nutritious value.

10 Years and Counting at the CCA

By EMILY ROSENBERG

Have you noticed the display cases in the Redpath library between the reserve desk and the sleeping room? They're filled with some of the neat stuff that the library owns but people rarely see — old books that spend their lives tucked away in the rare books section of McLennan and prints by dead Norwegian artists.

The Canadian Centre for Architecture is presenting an exhibit called *En chantier: the Collections of the CCA: 1989-1999* to celebrate their 10th anniversary. The exhibit halls resemble the cases of library artifacts in Redpath, but the CCA has some far more exciting items in their storage to dust off.

The CCA's collection includes more than half a million architecture-related items, including plans, rare books, and toys used for designing forms. The exhibit which they have assembled displays a few hundred of the more interesting and representative pieces.

For the architecture connoisseur, there is a plethora of tasty treats. The closet miniaturist will be enthralled by a 1:30 scale models of city streets. For the art buff there are enlightening blurbs tying architectural prints and models to earlier art movements, and for everyone there are some really neat things.

The entrance hall displays colorful sets of architectural blocks, arranged by McGill student Alison Bradley. In the first room I found a drawing by Roberto Valturio from

1475 of a swing-beam apparatus used for attacking fortifications. The book was the first to contain technical illustrations, and served as inspiration for artists including Leonardo da Vinci.

Another room displays photos of Peru's ancient city Machu Picchu which was uncovered in 1911, and a set of wooden "stereometry blocks" owned by Kennedy in a nearby case.

There are many more serious works among the toys and prints, and the exhibit



An old-school battering ram

its aim to explore the relations between social issues and architecture is clear. Gallery 6, with items from 1955 to 1980, is subtitled "Pop-up, plug-in — mobility, adaptability, and standardization" and "Expanding the language of architecture."

The pieces here reflect the pop aesthetic of the day. Architecture magazines, prints and the sketches of plans for urban areas highlight the new challenges faced by architects in the second half of the 20th century, and the ingenious ways in which they were overcome.

The last gallery explores present-day

architecture, including the field's possible limitations, such as the need for low-cost housing and the dangerous effects of shoddy urban planning.

A mini DVD player at the exit shows a loop of digitally imaged shapes that continually recombine and divide. This tape, representing one source of inspiration for architects today, stands in shocking contrast to the coloured wooden blocks at the exhibit's entrance which architects only a few decades ago would have used as their primary inspiration.

The exhibit concludes without resolving any of the difficult issues faced by architects today, but forces visitors to consider the dichotomy of construction and destruction, and the relation that architecture has to our everyday lives.

Architecture is one of the artistic elements of cities which we tend to take for granted. Too often we imagine that new construction is merely utilitarian and forget that the design for each structure is a careful balance between aesthetics, social considerations, historical trends, and political games. Architecture not only responds to a region's social environment, but allows for and encourages change. This tenth anniversary exhibit illustrates "architecture's extraordinary power as an agent of social change."

"En Chantier" will be up through April 30, 2000. Admission is free for students on Thursdays and for the general public after 5:30 on Thursdays. 1920 rue Baile. For information call 939-7026.

The medium and the messenger

By MARK GUPPY

WINNIPEG (CUP) — I can see the remains of David Suzuki's dinner plate. He's a pretty neat eater — I can't see a trace of food in his moustache, which gives him the appearance of a walrus.

An entire generation of Canadians has been raised watching Suzuki's nature documentaries. He has been the host of *The Nature of Things* since 1961, where his calm explanations of the natural world gives him the benign presence of Mr. Dressup. Suzuki says he doesn't see himself as the centre of attention, but he is aware of the reach his show has.

"I'm very proud of the series," he says. "It's the longest running series on the CBC. I can't imagine what [our] culture would be like if we hadn't had *The Nature of Things*."

Although his show reaches quite a few people, Suzuki doesn't think the program has had a huge impact on our popular culture. Still, he likes to believe he has made some difference, no matter how small.

"I would like to feel that I've inspired a lot of younger people to consider a science degree," he says. "I hope that I've turned people on to environmental issues, and that maybe a few people as a result of a show or series of shows have changed the way they behave." But he then adds, "In terms of Canada in general, I don't think that I've had any impact at all."

"We're all overwhelmed by things

coming at us," he explains, "and *The Nature of Things* is just another show. We're in show biz, and there's a tiny subset of viewers who watch television very seriously. Most people are using television basically to pass time away."

In his book, *From Naked Ape To Super Species*, Suzuki makes many references to Neil Postman, an outspoken critic of television.

So what does Suzuki think of Postman, an arts professor speaking out on scientific issues?



Dr. David Suzuki

"I value him very, very much because he raises issues that you almost never see raised by scientists or engineers," he replies. "He looks at it in a much broader cultural context. If it wasn't for the fact that he was outside of the science faculty, he might be a very different kind of critic."

At first glance Suzuki's admiration of Postman is puzzling. After all, Postman argues that the educational television

Suzuki is involved in is worse than the commercial garbage found on the American networks.

Suzuki was initially optimistic about what could be done, but he eventually came around to Postman's way of thinking.

"When I began television, my first shows were in 1962, even in '62 you knew that most of what was coming on was crap," he muses. "It was like going into a cesspool."

Suzuki says the reasons for this are not surprising.

"People have the TV set turned on from the time they come home and it's just there, it's in the background. They don't remember in the end whether it was on Suzuki's show or on *That's Incredible*."

But while Suzuki recognizes the importance of Postman's criticism, he doesn't have a problem staying on the air.

"I would have gotten out of television a long time ago given that critique. [However] the reality is that television isn't going to go away, and I know that there is a small subset that are very influenced by one or two small shows."

In the end, it's that small core of dedicated viewers who make it all worthwhile for Suzuki.

"That's what I'm interested in now. There are people who use the program who feel informed and empowered by it — or inspired by it — and will go on and do things."

Communication Learned in Workplace, not in School

Universities and students need to adapt to the new "multi-literate" workplace, says study

BY JASON CHOW

Effective communication through the written word is essential to a career.

However, the type of communication in the academic realm is not compatible with the demands of the workplace, according to a recent study titled "Relearning Writing for Work: Transitions Into and Within the Changing Workplace" by four McGill and Carleton professors.

The research team investigated writing in academic and workplace contexts in the fields of architecture, engineering, management, public administration, and social work. They examined how employees learned and produced the texts they write.

"The study is multi-faceted and tried to get a broad view," explained

Professor Ann Beer from McGill's the Department of Education Studies.

Their research showed that the purposes and demands of writing in the workplace and academic domains differ greatly.

They discovered that in the workplace, the initial learning process of professional writing happens under the tutelage of a supervisor, who acts as a mentor. New employees then learn about the activities, values, history and politics of the workplace—all of which would be difficult to teach in a university setting. Unlike the scheduled and sequenced teaching of the school setting, the workplace offers spontaneous opportunities to learn.

"Universities cannot both prepare students for the complexity of the contemporary world in all of the intellectual and social ways required, as well

as prepare them for the specific demands of particular jobs," said Professor Anthony Paré of McGill's Department of Educational Studies.

According to Beer, employees in today's workplace have to be "plurally literate" and able to communicate in changing fields and environments.

"In the past, people used to talk about single literacy," said Beer. "Our feeling is that we should now talk about plural literacies. People who are really literate in one way may find themselves not in another."

Beer used the stereotype of the long-winded academic to prove her point.

"People from the private sector complain that academics talk too long," said Beer. "That's because they value time more and want people to get to the point."

Globalization, explained Beer, has

added to the new multi-literate environment. With English becoming the global language, and with technological advances such as email, communication itself is evolving.

"English has become a world language. Email is facilitating that global communication. If people are writing from across the world, the main point is to get the point across, not to get the grammar correct."

To solve the single-literacy problem, universities can reproduce some of the circumstances of the workplace to teach students how to write for the professional environment. The university can foster greater dialogue between students and professors and between students themselves to open the channels of communication.

"Students need to interact with each other and with their professors more," recommended Beer.

"The different sectors need to engage in going to each other's places and talk and listen. Listening is key. There are so many stereotypes of all the fields."

"You then get that cross-fertilization to drop those barriers," added Beer.

The research team also prescribed helping students recognize the value of remaining active, curious, and self-motivated learners after they leave school. They pointed out that professional organizations and companies are also responsible for continuing the education of their employees.

The research team's findings are published in two books: Acting and Writing in Academic and Workplace Contexts and Writing in Academic and Workplace Settings.

...endnotes

LARGE CIVIL PENALTY

Kudos to the Clinton administration for slapping the largest civil penalty ever on a company for violating environmental laws.

Koch Industries will be forced to pay \$35-million for polluting coastlines, lakes, and streams in six different American states from Missouri to Texas. Koch industries is a major oil pipeline firm that is believed to be responsible for more than 300 oil spills from its pipelines, resulting in three million gallons of crude oil in lakes and streams and violating the Clean Water Act. Truth be told, \$35-million is somewhat flimsy relative to the actual worth of Koch industries, but it's a start.

Next step: dissolve Koch industries, who have already been found by a federal jury in Oklahoma to have cheated the government on oil purchases, which could result in penalties adding up to \$214-million. This is clearly a case of a corrupt and irresponsible corporation bent on serving few people other than themselves. The next penalty should entail giving Koch execs the option of being dropped in a giant vat of crude oil or cleaning an entire coastline with a set of toothbrushes.

-Tal Pinchersky

TEMPORARY REPRIEVE

Turkey's government coalition partners agreed on Thursday to postpone the hanging of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan until a European rights court rules on the

case. This is to satisfy international requests that Ocalan be tried under an objective judicial framework.

If anything, Ocalan's indictment, conviction, and sentencing have acted as a catalyst in the Kurdish rebel movement. The movement has received far greater international notoriety through Ocalan's trial than by any other means employed within the past 100 years.

Unfortunately, leftist Turkish prime minister Bulent Ecevit has stated that the death sentence handed down by a Turkish court in June cannot be overruled. This is a detriment to Turkey's efforts to adhere to the European Union's human rights regulations and the country's bid to join the Union in the near future.

Let's just thank our lucky stars that those mature and responsible intervenors from NATO have decided that the case of Ocalan and Turkey as a whole is not part of their big-gun agenda. -TP

ABOUT THIS PUFF CHARACTER

Sean Puffy Combs just can't seem to catch a break, can he?

Last Thursday the Grammy award-winning rapper, known to his legion of Puffheads as "Puff Daddy," was indicted on weapons charges.

This fiasco began about two weeks ago, when police said they found the rapper with a handgun inside his sports utility vehicle following a late-night shooting inside everyone's favourite midtown Manhattan club, Club NY.

According to prosecutors, a second handgun was thrown from the fleeing vehicle. There is little doubt that Comb's attorney dream team, chaired by Johnnie "This is Chewbacca" Cochran, will bleed the Puffster's wallet in exchange for a normal guilt-free lifestyle.

The indictment, however, appears to be untimely as it comes on the heels of a large spread in a major US newspaper making it painfully clear that Puff Daddy has earned his millions, won his Grammy, and is now about to join all those before him that somehow managed to stretch their 15 minutes into a nice life of leaving the wife and kids at home while running around shooting people with Jennifer "does this make my butt look big" Lopez.

Let's just hope that Mr. Daddy

spares himself the humiliation of plagiarizing one more classic rock song in order to facilitate his undying desire to pretend he is a good dancer.

-TP

CONGRATS TO CHANCELLOR DICK

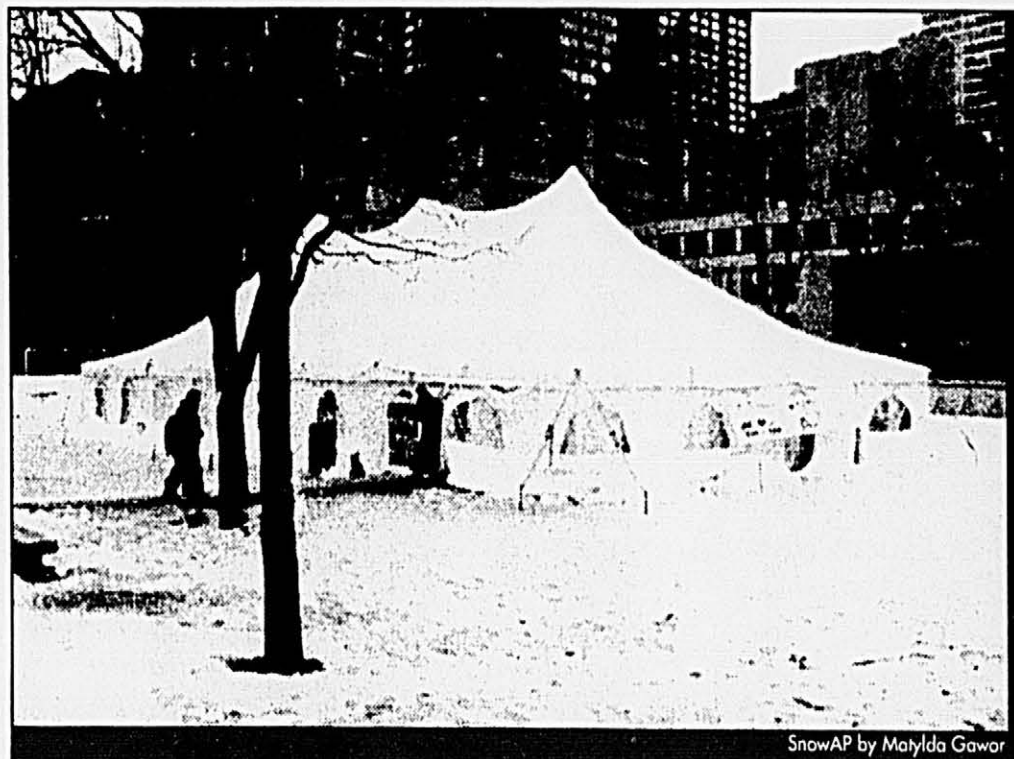
Congratulations go out to Chancellor Pound on behalf of the entire Daily staff for his 48th place finish in Frank magazine's top 100 Wankers list. Some solace can be taken in the fact that McGill's resident wanker finished behind Jason Priestly, David Foster, Dave Foley, René Angélil, Conrad Black, Gilles Duceppe, Lucien Bouchard, and the entire Richler clan.

We're still uncertain as to the com-

mendability of finishing ahead of the likes of Ken Finkleman, Alexei Yashin, Buzz Hargrove, Rick Mercer, and Mike Bullard.

Pound's scores were relatively high in the categories of pomposity, in which he scored an 8.4, and hypocrisy, where he received a curved score of 3.7. Somewhat depressing in this entire debacle is the fact that Chancellor Pound finished one position ahead of Mike Harris, who received a lower score in pomposity (6.7) and a significantly higher hypocrisy index (4.8).

Surely another feather in the cap of the man with, in the words of Frank's editors, "the best gay porn name since Tom Cruise." -TP



SnowAP by Mayda Gawor

CAMPUS EYE

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

HELP WANTED

Master School of Bartending

Bartending and table service courses. Student rebate, placement program. 849-2828, www.Bartending.com

Seeking French speaking Dancers for European Internet service. Serious callers only. Various shifts available. 514-591-9558.

SUMMER CAMP JOBS

Laurentians, June 27-Aug 16: Swim, Sail, Windsurf, Waterski, Canoe, Kayak, Golf, Gymnastics, Tennis, Basketball, Football, Wall-Climbing, Archery, Roller-Hockey, Baseball, Soccer, Arts & Crafts, Pottery, Beadmaking, Photography, Drama instructors, plus NURSING students to assist Camp Doctor. E-MAIL resume ronnie@generation.net or fax (514) 481-7863.

Microbrewery requires part-time person to man sample booth in local grocery stores. Call 276-0744 Peter.

Part-time bus-boy needed at Biddle's Jazz. Call Lydia. 842-8656.

Managing Editor/Contributing Writers and Editors For National Fashion and Lifestyle Magazines. Send c.v. toll free to Vertex 1-877-435-7801. Or email: vertex@laurentides.net

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MODERN DANCE CLASSES

Beginning + intermediate Tu and TH 5:45-7:15 starting Jan 11 live music. 372 Ste-Cath W. #303. More info call 279-6208.

Come and Practice your French with francophones - Bilingual Club 1/2+1/2 (450) 465-9128

MOVING/STORAGE

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Spacious renovated 2 1/2 for rent in NDG cottage, close to bus 24, 105, 63 and Vendôme station, furnished, lighted and heated with garden space, independent entry. Now vacant. 360\$/m. 489-6491/fax 489-5019 or k33560@er.uqam.ca

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Alright, we admit that we can't prove either of these statements. But either can anyone else.

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Creative reliable person (preferably Arts Student) for design and construction of a giant headdress for Medical Convention.

DANIEL ANYTIME 277-9622 OR 592-7614.
GENEROUS REMUNERATION.

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The Student Aid Office presents:
FREE BUDGET SEMINARS

Learn how to stretch your dollar through smart budgeting and helpful hints on saving money.

Seminars will be held in the William & Mary Brown Student Services Building 3600 McTavish, room 2007 on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 25th at 9:00 am
Thursday, January 27th, at 2:30 pm

Sign-up is required for attendance. Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot by contacting the Student Aid Office at 398-



WOMEN AND MEN NEEDED

to

VOLUNTEER FOR SACOMSS

(the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Student Society)

We are now looking for dedicated volunteers for two branches of the Sexual Assault Centre.

- **CRISIS INTERVENTION** - telephone help-line (female volunteers only)
- **ACCOMPANIMENT TEAM** - accompaniment and information on McGill's sexual harassment procedures (female and male volunteers)

No specific experience necessary—we provide training. You do not need to be a McGill Student to volunteer. If you are open-minded, a good listener, and you care about sexual assault at McGill and beyond, please come to one of our information sessions to find out how you can volunteer.

INFORMATION SESSIONS:

January 10 - 15 and 17 - 19, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm
BROWN 5200
(Brown Student Services Building 3600 McTavish)

Or come to Activities Night, Jan. 12,
(Shatner Building, 3480 McTavish)

Sexual Assault Information Line: 398-2700

The last word.

Endnotes is a weekly forum of views on the news. Mondays in the

THE MCGILL DAILY



The Post Graduate Students' Society PGSS ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA

The nomination and petition period for PGSS elections and referenda is now open.

Elected Positions

All regular members returning for the 2000-2001 academic year are eligible to run. Nominations for elected positions require 50 signatures of members.

The following Executive Positions are available:

Executive Chairperson
External Affairs and Government Relations Co-ordinator
Finance Co-ordinator
Internal Affairs Co-ordinator
University and Academic Affairs Co-ordinator

The following Representative Positions are available:

Board of Governors
Masters Senator
Doctoral Senator

Referenda

Petitions for referenda on any question dealing with Society affairs may be made by members. A petition of 50 signatures is required.

The nomination period ends at noon, January 31, 2000.

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or email:
wethier@telusplanet.net
Attn: Leader Application-CP



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